

In & around the Benefice....

18th October | Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Our Rector is The Reverend Morna Simpson
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Hello!

Thank you so much for the lovely ways in which you have welcomed me to the benefice. I'm so pleased to be joining you, and very much look forward to meeting you - in these strange times that may take longer than I would like!

In the meantime, please do feel free to contact me.

Every blessing, Morna

Our Benefice Songs of Praise Service is live online at 10am on Sunday 18th October

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81073931302> Meeting ID: 810 7393 1302

Today's Worship Services in our churches:

18 Oct 10am Yardley Hastings Holy Communion
18 Oct 4pm Grendon Worship For All

Next Week's Services:

25 Oct 10am Castle Ashby Holy Communion
25 Oct 8am Whiston Holy Communion
25 Oct 4pm Denton Worship For All



This line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

Please hold in your prayers this week:

- ◇ The Revd Morna Simpson as she takes up her role as our Rector, and for us all as we enter a new chapter in the life of the Benefice
- ◇ The schools in our Benefice, the headteachers John Wayland and Louise Brown and the staff as they endeavour to make school a welcoming and safe environment for all the children
- ◇ The young people from our Benefice who are living away from home, that they keep safe in these uncertain times.
- ◇ The health and well-being of our nation, that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and free from worry.
- ◇ Those suffering from, affected by or working to prevent the spread of Coronavirus
- ◇ NHS staff caring for Covid-19 patients, that they may have strength and resilience for their task, and be kept safe
- ◇ Persecuted Christians across the world, especially in North Korea
- ◇ Those in residential care and the housebound, among them: Audrey Desborough, Ruth Williams, Gwen York, Ann and Colin Dix
- ◇ Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them: Tom Stock, Nicholas Vaughan, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Muriel Coulson, Thelma Denton
- ◇ The recently departed, and all who grieve at this time

The Collect

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 45: 1-7

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed:

I will go before you and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron,
I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me.

I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me;

I am the Lord, and there is no other.

I form light and create darkness,

I make weal and create woe;

I the Lord do all these things.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

From Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians
in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake.

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it.

For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22: 15-22

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord**

When the chief priests and Pharisees had heard the parables, they realised that Jesus was speaking about them.

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying,

‘Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?’

But Jesus, aware of their malice, said,

‘Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.’

And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, ‘Whose head is this, and whose title?’

They answered, ‘The emperor’s.’

Then he said to them, ‘Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’

When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit:

may we honour you, not only with our lips but in lives dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen